GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3822
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Agmark Food Testing Laboratories
Pal Shri Jagdambika

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food testing laboratories currently operating under Agmark in the country and the details of tests carried out in these laboratories;

(b) the details of agricultural produce/ commodities being certified and not certified by the Agmark laboratories;

(c) whether the Government has felt the need to increase the number of these laboratories in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to ensure that quality of testing is maintained at each of the laboratories?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): The number of laboratories currently operating under Agmark scheme include 183 Private commercial laboratories engaged in domestic grading of agriculture commodities and 18 Private commercial laboratories engaged in export grading of agriculture commodities. These private commercial laboratories are further monitored by 1 Central Agmark Laboratory (CAL) at Nagpur and 11 Regional Agmark Laboratories (RALs) under the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI).

Details of tests carried out in these laboratories are Annexed.

(b): Under the Agmark Scheme, certification of agriculture commodities is voluntary. Out of 213 agri commodities notified under Agmark, there is presently a demand only for the certification of following agri commodities, which are being certified as per the relevant Agmark Rule:

Rice, wheat atta, suji, maida, besan, fruit & vegetables (grapes, onions, okra) wheat, chillies, turmeric, pepper, cumin, poppy seed, whole ajwain, coriander, fennel, fenugreek, curry powder, compounded asafoetida, mixed masala powder, oil seeds (mustard seed, sesame seeds), vegetable oils (groundnut oil, mustard oil, sesame oil, coconut oil, castor oil, blended edible vegetable oil, maize oil, soya bean oil, fat spread), oil cakes (mustard oil cake), creamery butter, ghee, honey, Isabgol husk, tobacco. tapioca sago, seedless tamarind, edible nuts, pulses, table eggs.
Contdâ€¦2/-

(c): As per the Agmark scheme, private commercial laboratories seek approval of the Government for granting approval for Agmark Certification. As such, the scheme is voluntary in nature and there are no set targets for increasing the number of these laboratories.

(d): To ensure that quality of testing is maintained in each of the approved laboratories, all the chemists working on Agmark Certification in these laboratories are trained and approved by the DMI. Further the quality of testing is ensured by periodic inspection of approved laboratories and their check samples further tested at RALs and counter checked, if necessary at CAL. Out of 11 RALs, 08 have been accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and CAL is also NABL accredited.